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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 257
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to commend Kelly Tolson upon her service as
Executive Director of Tennessee 200.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to
persons who have promoted a deeper understanding of the proud history of the Volunteer State;
and

WHEREAS, Kelly Tolson performed memorable service as Executive Director of
Tennessee 200; and

WHEREAS, in the performance of her duties, Ms. Tolson was involved in establishing a
County Bicentennial Committee in each of Tennessee's 95 counties. These committees were
the local arm of the celebration and they planned events to take place in their respective
communities, as well as participating in events that were statewide; and

WHEREAS, she also was involved in developing programs that were designed to bring
Tennesseans to a point of reflection about their heritage, the richness of Tennessee's natural
resources and our ability to leave a lasting legacy in honor of our state's 200th birthday; and

WHEREAS, with the help of various businesses and citizens around the state, and
generous support from the state, the board and staff of Tennessee 200 envisioned, developed
and implemented the "*Spirit of Tennessee*," the Bicentennial Train; this train was the
mechanism that embodied the link to the state's great Centennial Exposition and gave the

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citizens around the state the opportunity to feel, hear and see the state's 200-year history of "Commerce, Industry and Agriculture"; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tolson was involved in the planning, organizing and bringing to fruition of a Statehood Day celebration on June 1, 1996, which captured the essence of Tennessee's music and traditions; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tolson and the good people of Tennessee 200 joined in the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment by the General Assembly, which historic action resulted in the amendment being ratified as part of the U.S. Constitution, thus granting every American woman the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 1996, the board and staff of Tennessee 200 celebrated with this General Assembly the 200th anniversary of our convening for business; and

WHEREAS, The year-long Bicentennial Brick program enabled many citizens to purchase Bicentennial Bricks, which will be inscribed and placed on the Bicentennial Capitol Mall as the respective purchaser's own permanent legacy of the Bicentennial; and

WHEREAS, she also coordinated the collection of artifacts from each of Tennessee's 95 counties, and in April 1996, participated in the placement of these artifacts in time capsules along the Walk of Counties at the Bicentennial Capitol Mall. This event was the largest simultaneous time capsule burial at one place in history; and

WHEREAS, these capsules are to be opened in the year 2096 during the Tennessee Tricentennial and will represent life in Tennessee in 1996; and

WHEREAS, the staff of Tennessee 200 toiled tirelessly throughout 1996 under the watchful eye of their executive director, Kelly Tolson; and

WHEREAS, the staffs of the Bicentennial Commission and Tennessee 200 showed what dedication and perseverance could accomplish when, within a five-week time frame, the Statehood Day Celebration in Nashville and the kickoff of the Bicentennial Train in Obion County both took place and were both resounding successes; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Tolson was at times rushed to New York and Miami in the normal course of business, but, without a doubt, it would be international hubs such as Jamestown and Tiptonville where space and time would come together and not allow Ms. Tolson to arrive at her destination on time; and

WHEREAS, Kelly Tolson was one of many dedicated Tennesseans who helped to make Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration a most joyous and memorable event; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Kelly Tolson upon her service as Executive Director of Tennessee 200; commend her dedication in all her endeavors; and extend to this lady our best wishes for success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.